

REMARKS

The Examiner has objected to claims 1-7 based on informalities in claims 1-7. Applicant has accordingly amended the claims to overcome such objections.

The Examiner has rejected claims 3, 6, and 7 under 35 U.S.C. §112 as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention as having no clear antecedent basis. Applicant has amended such claims in order to have sufficient antecedent basis.

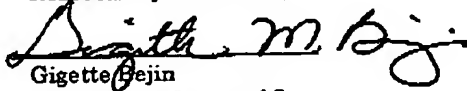
The Examiner has rejected claims 1-3 and 5 under 35 U.S.C. §102 (b) as being anticipated by the Polon reference. Independent claim 1 has been amended to clarify the invention. Polon fails to disclose an outer panel which is spaced apart from the inner panel so that fluids during the e-coating process can easily pass through the hem flange. In contrast, Polon shows the panels juxtaposed to one another thereby significantly hindering e-coating within the hem flange, resulting in corrosion at the hem flange area.

The Examiner has rejected claims 4, 6, and 7 under 35 U.S.C. §103 (a) as being unpatentable over Polon in view of Asai. Again, these references fail to disclose an outer panel which is spaced apart from the inner panel so that fluids, during the e-coating process, can easily pass through the hem flange.

No other art is cited in the Office Action. Based on the foregoing comments, the above-identified application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such allowance is courteously solicited. If any further amendment is necessary to advance prosecution and place this case in allowable condition, the Examiner is courteously requested to contact the undersigned by fax or telephone at the number listed below.

Please charge any cost incurred in the filing of this Amendment, along with any other costs, to Deposit Account 06-1510. If there are insufficient funds in this account, please charge the fees to Deposit Account No.06-1505.

Respectfully submitted,


Gigette Bejin
Registration No. 44027
Attorney for Applicant(s)

Date: 3/21/2005
Ford Global Technologies, LLC
600 Parklane Towers East
Dearborn, Michigan 48126
Phone: 1-313-3372966
Fax: 1-313-322-7162

- 4 -
(10/065361.)